

# Skylar Olsen, Ph.D.,

Senior Economist

Zillow



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## Professional Experience

Skylar joined Zillow in the summer of 2012. Her research, and that of her team, is used by consumers, policy makers, and other researchers to understand real estate markets and make better decisions. While authoring works such as *A House Divided – How Race Colors the Path to Homeownership* and numerous other Zillow research projects, she also creates many of Zillow's real estate indices and metrics, including the *Buyer-Seller Index* and the *Buy-Rent Breakeven Horizon*. She often travels around the country talking to real estate and community groups.

## Education

Skylar holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Washington specializing in econometrics and environmental economics. Her academic work focused on using housing data to explore environmental issues. Prior to her work at Zillow, Skylar was honored for teaching excellence by the University of Washington. Skylar is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and her father is a professor and the Area Chair for Industrial and Packaging Technology in the Orfalea College of Business at Cal Poly. Her mother is the Retail Director at Hearst Castle.